



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N • Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia, WA

October 31, 2003

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed is a package of proposed changes to the rules governing recreational fisheries for game fish, food fish, and shellfish. This notice is being sent to our sportfishing rule development mailing list and e-mail list. These lists include regulatory agencies, tribal biologists, clubs, and advisory groups in addition to members of the public who have taken an interest in the sportfish rule change process in the past or who have asked to be included. We look forward to receiving your comments or ideas concerning the proposed changes that are enclosed with this notice. This notice and the information on the proposed changes is also available on our website at www.wa.gov/wdfw.

This regulation cycle is what we term a "major cycle" so there are a large number of proposals in the package. Some of the proposals originated from department staff, while others came from the public or from other agencies. There are two parts to the mailout. The first portion, printed on white paper, lists all of the proposals that have the approval of WDFW to go forward for public comment. Each proposal has a description and an explanation. The second part of the mailout, printed on colored paper and in table form, contains the proposals that were not supported by staff to go out for public comment. Each of these proposals is described briefly, and a reason for the lack of support is noted.

The public hearing for these proposed rules will be held during the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting on December 5 and 6 at Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend, WA. Verbal testimony on the proposals may be presented at the hearing. Written testimony may be sent to Evan Jacoby, WDFW Rules Coordinator at 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091. All written testimony must be received by Mr. Jacoby prior to the December 5 meeting. If you plan on attending, you may also submit written testimony at the hearing. Both written and oral testimony will be carefully considered.

An adoption hearing will be held at the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in February, 2004. At the adoption hearing, these proposals: (a) may be adopted as proposed; (b) may be modified; or (c) may not be adopted. No additional public testimony on the proposed rules will be taken at this meeting. Check the WDFW website for the time and place of this meeting. The effective date of any changes will be May 1, 2004, unless otherwise noted in specific proposals that are adopted. Permanent rules remain in effect until formally changed.

If you are a person with a disability and require accommodation for attendance, please contact Evan Jacoby at (360) 902-2930. This publication is available in alternate formats upon advance request. Please contact (360) 902-2200 or TDD (360) 902-2207, and allow seven working days to process your request.

The Pre-Season Salmon Management Process

Another process that shapes recreational fisheries in Washington waters is the North of Falcon process. The final product from this process is a management plan that coordinates recreational, commercial and treaty salmon fisheries north of Cape Falcon which includes both marine and freshwater areas in Washington State. Except where modified by a specific proposal, the salmon seasons listed in this mailout are the 2003-2004 seasons, and may be modified during the meetings described below.

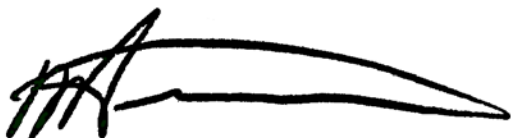
A series of public meeting are scheduled in March and April in conjunction with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's ocean season setting process. These meetings are attended by federal, state, and tribal managers, special interest groups and concerned citizenry. You are welcomed and encouraged to attend any of these meetings. Please contact Customer Service at (360) 902-2700 for details. **The recreational rules resulting from the North of Falcon process will be included in the 2004-2005 sportfishing pamphlet.**

Pacific Halibut

The Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the International Pacific Halibut Commission have the primary responsibility for regulating this fishery. Rules for the 2004 recreational fishery for halibut have not been established. A final decision on these rules will be made in early 2004. WDFW will be hosting a public workshop on the proposed regulations. For more information on this process, please contact (360) 249-4628, ext 211.

Thank you for your interest in Washington's fisheries resources. If you no longer want to be part of the sportfishing rule change process, you can write to us at the above address c/o Fish Program and ask to be taken off the Sportfish Rule Development Mailing List. We have also set up a special mailbox at Sportfishing@dfw.wa.gov that you can use to update your address or to add or delete yourself from our mailing list. If you are currently receiving your information by mail and would be willing to do it by e-mail instead, it will save the Department quite a bit in mailing costs. Please send an e-mail to the Sportfishing box, listing your regular mailing address and the e-mail address we can use instead. Also, please reserve the use of this mailbox only for sportfish mailing list business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lew Atkins', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Lew Atkins
Assistant Director
Fish Program

Enclosure